# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4318
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
SOIL EROSION
Gorakhnath Shri

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment with regard to extent of soil erosion caused by floods in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check soil erosion;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the loss caused therefrom; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (e): As per the study conducted (2005) by National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) − Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) − Regional Centre, Nagpur, out of country's total geographical area of 328.60 million ha., about 146.82 million ha. area is suffering from various kinds of soil erosion and land degradation as per break up given below:-

| S.No. | Land Degradation | Extent of area in million ha. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Water erosion | 93.68 |
| 2 | Wind erosion | 9.48 |
| 3 | Water logging | 14.30 |
| 4 | Salinity/alkalinity | 5.95 |
| 5 | Soil acidity | 16.03 |
| 6 | Complex problem | 7.38 |
| | Total | 146.82 |

The State-wise and category-wise extent of degraded land including soil erosion caused by floods water and its percentage with respect to State's geographical area are annexed.

Out of the total degraded area of 146.82 million ha., soil erosion due to water is 93.68 million ha., which is about 63% of the total degraded area. With a view to prevent soil erosion and land degradation, the Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS), and Watershed Development

Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) in the country.

As per studies conducted by ICAR at different Regional Centres, the average rate of soil erosion is 16.4 tonnes per hectare per year, which is more than the permissible limit of 10.00 tonnes per hectare per annum. Out of total eroded soil, 61% simply moves from one place to another, nearly 29% is lost permanently to the sea and remaining 10% is deposited in the reservoirs. The soil formation and erosion is natural process occurring simultaneously to maintain the equilibrium in eco-system. The soil erosion leads to land degradation in upper reaches of the river system, whereas when deposited as alluvium by the river system in the downstream, it may increase the soil fertility.